

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/823,450

Applicant(s)

ZHOU ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

My-Trang N. Ton

2816

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Admt. filed 9/19/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 4-23 and 29.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


MY-TRANG N. TON
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Reasons for allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the prior art disclosed or suggested to show the particular structure and/or the particular operation recited in these claims namely: **"a voltage detection circuit coupled to the I/O pin, the voltage detection circuit having an output terminal coupled to the gate of the single transistor ..."** and **"a voltage level shifter circuit having a power terminal connected to the I/O pin, the output terminal coupled to the input terminal of the voltage detection circuit and an input terminal to receive the enable signal"** in combination with **"a single transistor"** as recited in claim 5, **"a PMOS transistor connected between the I/O pin and an intermediate node and having a gate coupled to a voltage supply of the IC device"** and **"a voltage level shifter circuit having a power terminal connected to the intermediate node, an output terminal coupled to the gate of the single transistor, and an input terminal to receive the enable signal"** in combination with **"a single transistor"** as recited in claim 9; **"a voltage detection circuit coupled to the I/O pin, the voltage detection circuit having an output terminal coupled to the discharge circuit ..."** and **"a voltage level shifter circuit having a power terminal connected to the I/O pin, an output terminal coupled to the input terminal of the voltage detection circuit, and an input terminal to receive an enable signal"** in combination with **"a discharge circuit"** as recited in claim 13; **"a PMOS transistor connected between the I/O pin and an intermediate node and having a gate coupled to a supply of the IC device"** and **"a voltage level shifter circuit having a power terminal**

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connected to the intermediate node, an output terminal coupled to the discharge circuit, and an input terminal to receive an enable signal in combination with "a discharge circuit" as recited in claim 19.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to My-Trang N. Ton whose telephone number is 571-272-1754. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 a.m - 5:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy Callahan can be reached on 571-272-1740. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



My-Trang N. Ton
Primary Examiner
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9/29/05